



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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12 JANUARY 1966

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1. Vietnam

Shelepin leaves Hanoi Thursday morning (tonight, Washington time) for Peking. He apparently will spend at least Thursday afternoon and night in the Chinese capital. Shelepin's farewell remarks in Hanoi have not come in yet, but we do not expect any surprises. His public statements through yesterday contained nothing new.

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2. North Vietnam

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The North Vietnamese claim that, when signing the Geneva Convention, Hanoi reserved its position on the applicability of prisoner of war provisions to those who bomb open cities and those who use poison gas.

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The year-end communiqué from Hanoi's council of ministers confirms that the North Vietnamese have abandoned their five-year economic planning. The communiqué's language suggests that the war has discouraged the planners from looking more than a year ahead at the outside.

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3. South Vietnam

Saigon's security apparatus has a report that retired General Tran Van Don, sometime aide to Diem, is organizing a coup for the Vietnamese New Year's period, 21-23 January. Don has been increasingly active in politics in recent weeks. His activity is evidently closely monitored by the authorities, however, and they may even be exaggerating the danger from him in order to justify apprehending him.

4. Soviet Union

Brezhnev and an impressive retinue arrived in Mongolia today.

While there, he will reward the Soviets' most loyal Asian ally by offering the Mongolians a new, and perhaps broader, mutual defense treaty. This would replace the present vehicle which was signed in 1946 and expires next month.

In recent days, the Soviets have let it be known that Brezhnev's party would be heavily weighted with military figures and that the Mongolians were concerned about the Chinese Communists.

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5. Communist China

The extremes to which Peking will go these days to belabor the Soviets is illustrated by Chinese charges today that high-level Soviet and US delegations were sent to New Delhi, not just to attend Shastri's funeral but to carry out further "collusion about the peace talk swindle."

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6. India-Pakistan

The initial response in both India and Pakistan to the Tashkent declaration has been cautiously favorable despite some hostile comment.

Ambassador Bowles believes that Shastri's death will mute criticism of controversial sections and make it easier for India to carry out such unpopular provisions as the withdrawal of Indian troops from hard-won positions in Kashmir and the Punjab. Soviet prestige in India, already high, has been advanced.

[redacted] the Pakistan Government does not think that the Tashkent discussions resulted in any positive step toward a settlement of the Kashmir dispute. Pakistan believes, however, that it gained at Tashkent by moving the Soviets to a more neutral position on Kashmir and it was for this that Ayub assented to pressure from Kosygin to continue the talks.

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7. Zambia

[redacted]

Friction is growing between Kaunda's party and union officials at the mines over an attempt to get more party men elected to top union jobs. On top of this, a new "liberation party," composed mostly of European expatriates from Malawi (former Nyasaland), is trying to foment a strike to embarrass Kaunda.

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Kaunda has been able to handle pressure of this sort in the past, but Rhodesia's declaration of independence has inflamed racial feelings and greatly complicated his problems now. The danger is that too many concessions to the black Africans could trigger an exodus of jittery, but very necessary, white technicians.

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8. Dominican Republic With six lesser ex-rebel officers safely out of the country, attention today shifted to Caamano's own intentions.

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The 72-hour general strike was called off after 48 hours as its leftist sponsors failed to generate enough support. The left split on this one.

9. France

A De Gaulle state visit to Moscow has been announced for later this year, and the general may include a number of East European countries on his itinerary. Gaullists have interpreted his re-election as justifying French foreign policies, a cardinal tenet of which is the pursuit of closer relations with the eastern bloc independent of France's Western allies.

10. West Africa

Trouble is brewing in still other ex-French colonies in West Africa. Our embassy in Mauritania fears a racial explosion there,

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